

as it has to us that of late the growth of Sectaries (chiefly to be attributed as we believe to the want of a regularly governed Clergy) has been so amazingly rapid and their Conduct so daring and vexatious that amongst other instances of their factious Spirit they now daily and openly call in Question even his Lordship's Right of Presentation, an Evil which we fear will daily increase and which we cannot but think can only be effectually put a Stop to by the Admission of an American Bishop - It must then be obvious to your Excellency that the Establishment here cannot subsist much longer without some form of Government. Whether this shall be that constitutional one by Bishops to which alone a Clergyman of the Church of England can in Conscience think it his Duty to Submit or the unconstitutional and palpably Presbyterian System not long ago warmly contended for by both Houses of Assembly, is a Question hardly less interesting to the Civil Government of this Province than it is to its Clergy - The Jurisdiction of a Presbytery and every other Jurisdiction in its Principles akin to it is so adverse to the Frame and Scope of our excellent Establishment both in Church and State that in attempting to keep it forever at a distance from Maryland we trust your Excellency will consider us as doing what most undoubtedly is our Duty ever to do consulting the best Interests of the Lord Proprietary and the Welfare of the Community at large, as well as our own in particular. On these Principles and on these Considerations alone, we presume to solicit your Excellency's Concurrence and Assistance in promoting so salutary a Scheme. Every step in our Power conducive thereto we have taken; We applied to the Throne, to Lord Baltimore to His Grace of Lancaster and to the Bishop of London Copies of which Applications we think it incumbent on us to lay before your Excellency with a request that you will be pleased as soon as may be to transmit our Letter to Lord Baltimore, and should it be in your Excellency's Power to lend a helping Hand to the furtherance of this good Design, as we believe it greatly is, We persuade ourselves from the assurances we have heretofore had the Honour to receive from your Excellency and which we do and shall ever gratefully remember, that you will not withhold it. One Instance there is in which we conceive it is much in your Power to promote the Cause and that is by co-operating with us in our Application to our Brethren of the Clergy in Virginia, by recommending it strongly to the Attention and Countenance of Lord Botetourt. -

We are not so sanguine as to flatter ourselves with the Hope either of immediate or certain Success from this our Application, but should we after all finally fail, which we pray Heaven to avert! We shall comfort ourselves with the reflexion that ever to fail is less reproachful than never to attempt it at all. -

We are Sir, with infinite Respect
Your Excellency's most Obedient and
faithful humble Servants
Signed by Order
Robert Read Secretary

My Lord

Bound as we are by every tie of Gratitude to promote your Lordship's interest and the Welfare of this Province which we have ever considered as inseparable, and in which our own is involved we cannot with indifference behold Measures pursued, which we apprehend to have a manifest tendency to endanger interests so deservedly dear to us - Upon a proper degree of Influence and Authority with the People with the usefulness of the Clergy of any Country depend - When that Authority and Influence fail either thro' their own Misconduct